



U.S. Department of Justice


Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 14, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Robert Raben 
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for August 14, 2000 - August 18, 2000

The House and Senate are in recess. The House will return on September 6; the Senate on September 5.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Campaign Finance: The Department will continue to work with Senate Judiciary Committee (Hatch, Chair) staff in responding to pending and new document requests. (Walter)

The Department will continue to work with the House Government Reform Committee (Burton, Chair) on outstanding document requests. (Tanner)

Telecom Mergers: The Department will continue to work with House and Senate staff contacts on pending legislation (S. 467 and H.R. 4019), and with Commerce and the White House on briefings for the Senate Commerce Committee (McCain, Chair) staff on the pending Hollings telecom bill. A briefing for the House Select Committee on Intelligence (Goss, Chair) is pending for later in the month. (Walter)

Loral: The Department was asked to provide follow up information arising out of the July 14 meeting with Senate Judiciary staff; a letter is being drafted by the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Columbia. In addition, the Department has nearly completed the review of third agency documents responsive to the Committee's subpoena and will be providing them this week. (Walter)

House Judiciary Committee Oversight: We are continuing to work with Committee staff on oversight requests regarding the Department's decision to decline prosecution of two federal employees who were involved in the disclosure of Privacy Act protected information relating to Ms. Linda Tripp. We have agreed to provide access at the Department to the Criminal Division's declination memorandum, followed by a briefing to answer their questions and further clarify our position in this matter. The access will be provided pursuant to a confidentiality agreement and, under those circumstances, we believe it is an appropriate accommodation of the Committee needs, consistent with Department interests. (Burton)

Waco: We are continuing to work with staff of the House Government Reform Committee (Burton, Chair) as they conclude their oversight investigation of this matter. They have requested an informal interview of Deputy Associate Attorney General David Margolis, which is likely to occur this week, and interviews of line attorneys in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of Texas, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], which are under consideration within the Department. Our document production to the Committee also is continuing. (Burton)

Trafficking in Persons: The Immigration and Naturalization Service, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and the Office of Legislative Affairs continue to work with House and Senate staff to address the Department's concerns with H.R. 3244, which creates new crimes to prosecute traffickers, and creates a new visa (the T visa) for trafficking victims who assist law enforcement. (First)

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Judicial Review Commission on Foreign Asset Controls: We provided a response to the Commission's June 30 request for an advisory opinion on issues it has been charged by Congress with examining; the Office of Legal Counsel took the lead in drafting. (Walter)

Drug Trafficking: On August 8, the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime (McCollum, Chair) held a field hearing at the Kansas Highway Patrol Training Academy in Salina, Kansas. The subject of the hearing was methamphetamine trafficking. DEA Special Agent in Charge Joseph J. Corcoran of the St. Louis Division testified. (Tanner)

FISA Bill: On August 7, Department representatives of the Office of Intelligence Policy and Review (OIPR) met with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (Shelby, Chair) staff to discuss the Committee's request for a report on OIPR's FISA functions and activities. (Walter)

Ecstasy Sentencing: On August 7, representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Office of Legislative Affairs met with Senate Judiciary Committee (Hatch, Chair) staff to discuss legislation to increase sentences related to the drug "ecstasy." (Graupensperger)

Religious Liberty: On July 27, both the House and Senate approved S. 2869, the "Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000." The President is expected to sign the bill. (Owen)